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REMARKS

Re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-7, 10-20 and 22-24 are pending in the application and under consideration, as claims 2, 3, 8, 9 and 21 have been canceled.

By the above amendments, claims 2, 3, 8, 9 and 21 have been canceled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 19. In addition, claims 5, 7, 13, 17, 19, and 23 have been revised to correct their dependency.

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of claims 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 17, 21 and 23 as being allowable.

The specification stands objected under 37 CFR §1.75(d)(1) as allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. This objection is traversed for the following reasons.

The Examiner has requested clarification between cellular and microcellular. The recitation microcellular or microporous is applicable to cellular structures such as foam and similar structures. Cellular as defined by The American College Dictionary (Fourth Ed.) is a small enclosed cavity or space, as in a honeycomb. Micro refers to the small cellular structure. Based on the plain meaning of the words, it is understood that microcellular refers to small enclosed cavities. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is believed to be in order and it is respectfully requested.

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Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ibrahim (U.S. Patent No. 4,396,657) in view of Benedict et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,406,577) and Kimura et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,753,838). This rejection has been obviated by the above amendments where the allowable subject matter has been incorporated into the independent claims. Thus, the claims as now presented are allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 2, 3, 8, 9 and 21 have been found to be allowable.

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at his or her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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